

## KDHE Survey Measures Kansans' Smiles

The *Smiles Across Kansas 2004 Survey* is underway. KDHE received \$50,000 from an oral health grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to determine the oral status and treatment needs of Kansas' children.

In the spirit of collaboration, some Kansas dentists offered to collect data when doing screenings for *Give Kids A Smile Day*, on February 6. Dentists were asked by the American Dental Association to provide free dental care on that day to low-income children across the country for National Children's Dental Health Month.



The *Smiles Across Kansas 2004 Survey* is utilizing 80 elementary schools to obtain data on Kansas' third graders; the data collected can be compared to data collected by other states using the same Basic Screening Survey. Registered Dental Hygienists will be conducting the screenings beginning the end of March.

Other tooth-related events happening in March include:

### March 19: St. Joseph's Day

On this day, the swallows return to California's Mission San Juan Capistrano, after spending the winter in Argentina. Swallows, like all birds, have no teeth. They "chew" their food by swallowing tiny bits of gravel. The gravel "chews" the food internally!

### March 17, 1845: Rubber Band Invented

This marked the start of a new era in modern orthodontics. Those of you who have had "braces" know what we mean!

### March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Finally, we'd like to leave you with this ancient toast: "May your troubles be as few and as far apart as my grandmother's teeth."